

Claims 1-41 are pending.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the present claims require medical article comprising first polymer matrix having a first nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the first polymer matrix; a second polymer matrix having a second nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the second polymer matrix, said second nitric oxide donor compound differing from said first nitric oxide donor compound, and the first polymer matrix being chemically distinct from the second polymer matrix. The closest prior art, Stamler et al. reference, does not teach two different nitric oxide donors in the same device. Stamler does not teach or suggest a medical article comprising two distinct polymers. Sogo does not describe the administration of two different nitric oxide donors simultaneously. Sogo teaches using one drug serially in various concentrations, and teaches nitrosogluthathione and N-(S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine) as alternatives, rather than as a combination.

Therefore, closest prior art (Stamler and Sogo) do not teach or suggest the claimed invention of medical article comprising first polymer matrix having a first nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the first polymer matrix; a second polymer matrix having a second nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the second polymer matrix, said second nitric oxide donor compound differing from said first nitric

oxide donor compound and the first polymer matrix being chemically distinct from the second polymer matrix.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Claims 1-22, 40, 41 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

3. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 23-39 directed to non-elected invention **without traverse**. Accordingly, claims 23-39 been cancelled.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isis A. Ghali whose telephone number is (571) 272-0595. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sharmila Landau can be reached on (571) 272-0614. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Isis A Ghali/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1611

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